

09/833962

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and an apparatus are provided for combining a plurality of random number generators into a combined random number generator. The outputs of the plurality of generators are interleaved into a combined stream of random numbers selected from each of the plurality of random-number generators. A value of  $x$  is calculated by each of the random number generators. Each of the values of  $x$  is mapped to a respective arrival time  $t$  for each of the random number generators. One of the random number generators having an earliest respective arrival time  $t$  is determined. A random number based on the arrival time  $t$  is generated.

170004-1